

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 18, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 1081

Introduced by Senator Ducheny

February 22, 2005

An act to add ~~Section 79569~~ *Sections 79569 and 79569.5* to the Water Code, relating to habitat restoration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1081, as amended, Ducheny. Resource protection and restoration.

Existing law requires the Secretary of the Resources Agency, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Water Resources, the Salton Sea Authority, appropriate air quality districts, and the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to undertake a restoration study to determine a preferred alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the protection of wildlife dependent on that ecosystem.

The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, an initiative measure approved by the voters at the November 5, 2002, statewide general election, authorizes, for the purposes of financing a safe drinking water, water quality, and water reliability program, the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,440,000,000, of which \$50,000,000 is available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources necessary to meet state obligations for regulatory

requirements related to California's allocation of water supplies from the Colorado River.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that any of those bond moneys appropriated to the board for that purpose that are unencumbered on or after January 1, 2006, be used exclusively for the purpose of restoration of the Salton Sea and related activities. The bill would require the board to prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before June 1, 2006, a report regarding a specified land purchase. The bill would require the Department of Water Resources to seek to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the authority, United States Geological Survey, and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to establish a state and federal coordinated plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea. The bill would make findings and declarations relating to the Salton Sea and local input regarding restoration efforts.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The Alamo River and the New River are important
- 4 resources and inland tributaries to the Salton Sea.
- 5 (b) Improving water quality and maintaining the quantity of
- 6 water in the Salton Sea in accordance with the Quantification
- 7 Settlement Agreement and Section 2081.7 of the Fish and Game
- 8 Code are extremely important goals.
- 9 (c) The restoration of the Salton Sea is important to the
- 10 economic development of Imperial County and Riverside
- 11 County.
- 12 (d) Local input on restoration efforts should be taken into
- 13 consideration at every phase of the restoration plan.
- 14 (e) The state should improve the opportunities for involvement
- 15 of local entities in planning for the restoration of the Salton Sea
- 16 and implementing a restoration alternative.
- 17 SEC. 2. Section 79569 is added to the Water Code, to read:
- 18 79569. It is the intent of the Legislature that any moneys
- 19 appropriated to the Wildlife Conservation Board pursuant to
- 20 Section 79568 that are unencumbered on or after January 1,

1 2006, be used exclusively for the purpose of the restoration of the
2 Salton Sea and related activities. As used in this section,
3 “restoration of the Salton Sea and related activities” does not
4 include land acquisition on the Lower Colorado River that is not
5 related to the restoration of the Salton Sea.

6 ~~SEC. 3.—~~

7 *SEC. 3. Section 79569.5 is added to the Water Code, to read:*

8 79569.5. (a) The Wildlife Conservation Board shall prepare
9 and submit to the Legislature, on or before June 1, 2006, a report
10 on the purchase of lands in Riverside County commonly known
11 as “Travis Ranch.”

12 (b) The report shall include an explanation for the rationale for
13 the purchase and its consistency with existing law, including, but
14 not limited to, Chapters 611 and 613 of the Statutes of 2003.

15 SEC. 4. The Department of Water Resources shall seek to
16 enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Salton Sea
17 Authority, the United States Geological Survey, and the United
18 States Bureau of Reclamation to establish a state and federal
19 coordinated plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

20 SEC. 5. No provision in this act shall be construed in a
21 manner that is inconsistent with the Colorado River
22 Quantification Settlement Agreement or the Lower Colorado
23 River Multi-Species Conservation Plan.